

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Souissi, U.S. Pat. App. Pub. #2002/0187780 in view of Almgren et al, U.S. Pat. #6,668,175.

Souissi discloses in P.0001 a system and method in wireless communications for inter-system handoff. In P.0008 Souissi discloses that the multi-mode mobile station can switch from a non-preferred network to a preferred network upon the presence of an entry in a roaming table, where a roaming table is a lookup table having an entry corresponding to the presence/absence of a preferred network coverage area. In P.0009 Souissi discloses that the inter-system roaming table includes position information for the available networks. In P.0011 Souissi discloses that the inter-system handoff facilitates roaming to and from any of a WAN, LAN, or PAN giving the subscriber automatic cost savings by switching to a less expensive (cost), higher speed network (bandwidth) if one is available. In P.0076 et seq. Souissi discloses that the roaming table can be stored on the network at the network switching subsystem (304). In P.0064 Souissi discloses that the networks stored in the roaming table can have a priority or preference rank. In P.0079 Souissi discloses that the mobile device's identification information can be used by the network to determine which types of networks the device is configured to operate in and/or which of the networks are

preferred, and then the network will download information related to those particular networks. In P.005 Souissi discloses that the network preference is a matter of cost savings and/or desire for higher speed (bandwidth); in other words, subscribers will want to ensure that their mobile station will communicate with the lowest cost and fastest WLAN. Souissi goes on to disclose in P.0055 the subscriber is control of the network preferences and as such sets the preference hierarchy based on speed, cost, quality of service, traffic, etc. as a programmable parameter. Newton's Telecom Dictionary defines bandwidth as "the capacity to move information. Therefore, bandwidth equals speed (capacity to move information). With the roaming table located in the network, the network will have to retrieve/fetch the subscriber's roaming table, based on Souissi's disclosure in P.0055, in order to handoff the call to the particular networks specified by the subscriber. The network will have to consult the subscriber's roaming table in order to determine which network to handoff the call, based on the subscriber's preferences.

Almgren et al disclose in col. 3, lines 45 et seq. that a user will give to the network his/her service requirements, and include QoS parameters such as bit rate, BER, and transmission delay. In addition the user may specify a price parameter for a desired service. To have provided Almgren's disclosure of handing off a call to another network based on the costs of the network in Souissi's method and system would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art in case it's not deemed to be anticipated by Souissi.

Art Unit: 2614

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to CREIGHTON SMITH at telephone number (571)272-7546.

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